

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HONG K 07761 191254Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 957

S E C R E T HONG KONG 7761

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM SHOESMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: MODE - TRANSFER OF CUSTOMS -ND DEA FUNCTIONS
FROM TAIPEI TO HONG KONG

REFS: A. STATE 150989, B. STATE 150393, C. STATE 154697

1. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OUR INTENTION TO HAVE DEA/HONG

KONG HANDLE THE RESIDUAL WORK IN TAIPEI AFTER
CLOSING DEA'S OFFICE THERE MAY CREATE SOME DIFFICULTIES
FOR DEA IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH NARCOTICS AGENCIES
IN HONG KONG AND INVOLVE SOME SENSITIVITY ON THE
PART OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. IN THE PAST,
AT LEAST, THE NARCOTICS BUREAU HERE HAS BEEN
RELUCTANT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS MADE THROUGH
DEA FOR INFORMATION FROM ROC AGENCIES OR TO PASS
INFORMATION TO DEA FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THOSE AGENCIES.
(FOR THIS REASON DEA BELIEVES IT WILL BE EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT TO COVER TAIPEI ADEQUATELY FROM HONG KONG.)
ALTHOUGH CUSTOMS/HONG KONG DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY
SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES (IN THE PAST IT HAS PROVIDED

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TDY ASSISTANCE TO THE TAIPEI OFFICE WHICH IS WITHIN
ITS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES), I WOULD NOT RULE
OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR
CUSTOMS AS WELL MIGHT CAUSE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT
SOME UNEASINESS, PARTICULARLY IF IT HAD NOT BEEN
INFORMED IN ADVANCE, AT LEAST INFORMALLY.

2. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT, THEREFORE, FOR

ME TO INFORM THE POLITICAL ADVISOR INFORMALLY AND
SOONEST OF OUR INTENTIONS BOTH WITHRESPECT TO
CUSTOMS AND DEA. (IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT ONCE THESE
MOVES BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT
MAY BE QUERIED.) IN DOING SO, I WOULD EXPLAIN
OUR DECISION ALONG THE LINES OF REF C, WHICH WOULD
SEEM TO BE GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO DEA AS WELL AS
TOCUSTOMS. IF WE HAVE ANY REASONTOBELIEVE THAT
THE PRC WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THESE NEW

ARRANGEMENTS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ICOULD MAKE
SOME STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT IBE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM
THE POLITICAL ADVISOR OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT
SOONEST OF OUR INTENTIONS TO TRANSFER OUR COVERAGE
OF TAIWANIN CUSTOMS AND NARCOTICS MATTERS TO THE
OFFICES OF THECUSTOMS AND DEA, HONG KONG.
SHOESMITH

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